GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW AND JUSTICE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:321
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2007
VACANT POSTS OF JUDGES
Reddy Shri Mekapati Rajamohan

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of vacant posts of Judges in the Supreme Court of India and in various High Courts at present and the details of vacant posts that have been filled up in the last two years; and

(b) the steps take to fill up the current vacant posts?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ)

(a) & (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) & (b) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 321 for answer on 7.12.2007

Against a sanctioned strength of 26, the Supreme Court had 25 Judges in position as on 5.12.2007 leaving 1 vacancy to be filled up. In the High Courts, on the same date, against a sanctioned strength of 689 Judges, 600 Judges were in position leaving 89 vacancies to be filled up.

During the Calendar years 2006 and 2007, following number of vacancies were filled up:

	2006	2007 (up to 5.12.2007)
Supreme Court	03	07
High Court	110	59

In addition to the appointments made up to 5.12.2007, a total of 49 proposals received from various High Courts are at different stages of consideration.

While every effort is made to fill up the existing vacancies expeditiously, vacancies do keep arising on account of retirements, resignation or elevation of Judges. After the Supreme Court Judgment of October 6, 1993 in the Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record & Anr. Vs. Union of India, read with the Advisory Opinion of October 28, 1998, the entire process of initiation of proposal for appointment of a Judge of a Supreme Court lies with the Chief Justice of India and for the appointment of a Judge of a High Court, with the Chief Justice of that High Court. Government has been periodically reminding the Chief Justices of High Courts to initiate proposals for filling up all vacant posts of Judges in the High Courts.